

## MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Special Meeting

March 31, 1952  
3:00 P.M.

Council Chamber, City Hall

The meeting was called to order with Mayor Drake presiding.

## Roll Call:

Present: Councilmen Johnson, Long, MacCorkle, White, Mayor Drake  
Absent: None

Present also: Walter E. Seaholm, City Manager; W. T. Williams, Jr., City Attorney; C. G. Levander, Director of Public Works.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Austin will be held on the 31st day of March, 1952, at the Municipal Building, Eighth and Colorado Streets, in Austin, Texas, at 3:00 P.M., for the purpose of considering a wage increase ordinance to the Civil Service employees of the City of Austin, and awarding the bridge contract.

Dated this 31st day of March, 1952.

(S) W. S. Drake, Jr.  
Mayor  
City of Austin

ATTEST:

(S) Elsie Woosley  
City Clerk

## CONSENT TO MEETING

We, the undersigned members of the City Council, hereby accept service of the foregoing notice, waiving any and all irregularities in such service and such notice, and consent and agree that said City Council shall meet at the time and place therein named, and for the purposes therein stated.

(S) Will T. Johnson  
(S) Ben White  
(S) Stuart A. MacCorkle  
(S) Mrs. Stuart Long

With reference to the wage increase ordinance to the Civil Service employees of the City, Councilman MacCorkle went on record as favoring what was done for one department should be done for all, and that he would like to raise the other city employees on the same proportion that the fire and police employees would be raised. The City Manager explained the sources of revenue. Councilman White stated he wanted consideration given to all employees also.

The Mayor introduced the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING BASE SALARIES AND  
LONGEVITY PAY FOR CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES IN  
THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND POLICE DEPARTMENT;  
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

The ordinance was read the first time, and Councilman Long moved that the rule be suspended and the ordinance passed to its second reading. The motion, seconded by Councilman White, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Johnson, Long, MacCorkle, White, Mayor Drake  
Noes: None

The ordinance was read the second time, and Councilman Long moved that the rule be suspended and the ordinance passed to its third reading. The motion, seconded by Councilman White, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Johnson, Long, MacCorkle, White, Mayor Drake  
Noes: None

The ordinance was read the third time, and Councilman Long moved that the ordinance be finally passed. The motion, seconded by Councilman White, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Johnson, Long, MacCorkle, White, Mayor Drake  
Noes: None

The Mayor announced that the ordinance had been finally passed.

Discussion was held on whether or not the Election on the Firemen's Petition would be held as scheduled. The City Attorney stated it was his opinion the election would have to be held; but that would in no wise affect the power of the Council in the adoption of this ordinance. MR. JOHN COPPER stated he did not think the election would have to be held.

The City Manager presented the following:

March 26, 1952

Messrs. Walter E. Seaholm, City Manager  
C. G. Levander, Director of Public Works  
City Hall  
Austin, Texas

Subject: Colorado River Bridge  
Project No. 2-1951

Gentlemen:

This is to advise that the two low bids submitted on the Colorado River Bridge were as follows:

Ottinger Construction Co.-----\$513,927.41  
3101 Camp Bowie  
Fort Worth, Texas

Austin Bridge Co.-----\$513,972.09  
P. O. Box 1590  
Dallas, Texas

In our opinion either of the above amounts is an extremely reasonable price for the construction of the bridge proposed and may for all practical purposes be considered as equal insofar as price is concerned. Since both bids are considerably under the preliminary estimate we believe it is advisable to consider reputation, experience and general reliability of the two concerns in the awarding of the contract.

The Austin Bridge Co. is perhaps one of the most experienced bridge companies now operating in the State. They are qualified for bidding in the Texas Highway Department and have current contracts with the Highway Department valued at approximately 1 3/4 million dollars. In addition they have extensive joint operations with the Austin Road Co. the value of which is approximately 2 3/4 million. The report of March first on these projects indicate that they average approximately 75% complete. To handle this amount of work is concrete evidence that the firm is well supplied with equipment and has experienced personnel to handle the Colorado River Project.

The Ottinger Construction Co. as far as we have been able to determine originated in Oklahoma City and moved into Texas on dam construction. They were qualified by the Highway Department of Texas for bridge work about four years ago,

however, they were never a successful bidder on a State Highway project and have subsequently allowed their name to be dropped from the list of qualified bidders. We have no first hand knowledge of their present operations, however we have been told that they now have a contract in Dallas and that they have constructed water works for the City of Fort Worth. The value of this work is not known. Before we could consider recommending the award of this contract to this firm it would be necessary to make extensive inquiries into the amount of equipment, personnel and financial responsibility of this firm. It would also be advisable to secure statements from the supervising Engineer, material suppliers and sub-contractors on the project they now have under contract and examine their bid figures on the Colorado River Bridge to determine that they had prices from reliable suppliers and sub-contractors. Such an investigation would require a week or ten days delay in awarding the contract.

In view of the above facts, coupled with the hazards inherent with the construction of a bridge job of this nature and size and also the fact that the prices are for all practical purposes equal and low, we believe that it would be to the best interest of the City to award the contract to the Austin Bridge Co. and recommend that same be done.

Sincerely yours,  
(Sgd) Julian Montgomery  
Consulting Engineer

March 29, 1952

The Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City Hall  
Austin, Texas

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to our bid on the Colorado River Bridge Project filed with your City in compliance with Public Advertisements and Bid Invitation. It is our understanding that our bid was the low bid received. We are looking forward to the construction of this project with a great deal of pride and confidence that our organization will perform the work to your entire satisfaction and in strict accordance with the best of Engineering and Construction Procedure.

Our past experience as evidenced by the experience record, (on file in City Clerk's Office under BRIDGES) photographs, etc., as submitted to you will indicate the long and widely varied Construction history which our firm has enjoyed. Every phase of Heavy Construction activity including Highways, Bridges, Dams, Levees, Filtration and Sewage Treatment Plants, Airfields, Concrete Paving, Railroad Installations, etc. have been successfully performed for Agencies of the Armed Services, Municipalities, and several States throughout the Southwest.

In these times of keen competition and high taxes, one of the greatest incentives in the Construction Industry is to perform the highest type of work possible and to merit the confidence and goodwill of the officials under whose authority the work is performed. We believe we have accomplished these results in the past and certainly intend to pursue this same policy in connection with all work which we are fortunate enough to perform for the City of Austin.

Very truly yours,  
OTTINGER CONSTRUCTION CO.  
(Sgd) E. C. Ottinger

## TELEGRAM

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C. G. LEDANER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS  
CITY OF AUSTIN AUSTIN, TEX

AT REQUEST OF MR. E. C. OTTINGER THIS IS TO ADVISE THAT OTTINGER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY BUILT THE OUTLET WORKS BENBROOK DAM UNDER SUPERVISIRION OF CORP OF ENGI-NEERS CONTRACT WAS IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS AND INVOLVED CONSIDERABLE STEEL WORK AND CONCRETE, INCLUDING INSTALLATION OF LARGE CONTROL GATES. WORK WAS COMPLETED A HEAD OF SCHEDULE WITH SATISFACTORY WORKMANSHIP=  
DIST ENGR FT WORTH DIST CORP OF ENGRS=

March 27, 1952

Memorandum to: Walter Seaholm, City Manager

Memorandum from: C. G. Levander, Director of Public Works

Subject: Colorado River Bridge project # 2 - 1951

The bids received on Tuesday, March 25th for the construction of the Colorado River Bridge show the Ottinger Construction Company low with \$513,927.41. The Austin Bridge Company is next with \$513,972.09. Both of these bids are below the City's estimate.

The Austin Bridge Company is a Texas concern and one of the best known Bridge construction companies in this section of the country. Their past experience indicates that they are well qualified to construct a large bridge and being a large corporation they have connections with large material suppliers which is very important in this day of steel shortages.

It is our belief that if they are awarded the contract that the construction of the bridge will progress smoothly with no delay caused by a lack of essential materials.

On the other hand the Ottinger Construction Company is an unknown quantity to us and if they are delayed in any way in obtaining the steel for this bridge it will result in additional costs to the City in overhead charges and otherwise far in excess of the \$44.68 difference in the bids.

Taking these facts into consideration, I recommend that the Austin Bridge Company be awarded the contract for the construction of the Colorado River Bridge.

(Sgd) C. G. Levander

MR. E. C. OTTINGER appeared in his own interest.

Councilman MacCorkle offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

(RESOLUTION)

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has received competitive bids on the construction of a Colorado River Bridge in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas; such bridge to be constructed over the Colorado River on an approximate north-south line midway between Lavaca Street and Guadalupe Street; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has duly considered all bids and bidders and is of the opinion that the Austin Bridge Company of Dallas, Texas, is the lowest responsible bidder; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the bid of Austin Bridge Company, in the sum of \$513,972.09, be and the same is hereby accepted, and W. E. Seaholm, City Manager, is authorized and directed to enter into a contract with the Austin Bridge Company for the construction of a Colorado River Bridge in the City of Austin, Texas.

The motion, seconded by Councilman Johnson, carried by the following vote:  
Ayes: Councilmen Johnson, MacCorkle, White, Mayor Drake  
Noes: Councilman Long

Councilman MacCorkle asked that salary increases for the Fire and Police Chiefs be considered. He then moved that both of their salaries be increased beginning May 1st by 10%. Councilman Long raised a point of order, in that this matter was not included in the Notice of Special meeting. Councilman MacCorkle withdrew his motion, stating he would again bring the matter up at the next regular meeting.

There being no further business, the Council adjourned subject to the call of the Mayor.

APPROVED: W. E. Seaholm

Mayor

ATTEST:

Elin Hoosley  
City Clerk